




**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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April 29, 2004

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley
Auditor-Controller 

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – DANGERFIELD
GROUP HOME, SITES 1, 2, AND 3**

We have completed a review of three group homes operated by the Dangerfield Group Home (Dangerfield), Inc., Site 1, Site 2, and Site 3. Each home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation). Dangerfield's three group homes are located in the Second District.

Site 1 is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 7-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Site 1 was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Sites 2 and 3 are six-bed facilities, which provide care for girls ages 7-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Sites 2 and 3 were each providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review was to verify that the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statements. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues. It included an evaluation of each home's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with two children placed in each home at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by each facility, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, all three sites were providing the services outlined in their Program Statements. However, we did note a few areas where Dangerfield needs to improve.

Site 1

Site 1 needs to provide additional recreational equipment and play activities.

Site 2

Site 2 needs to provide initial diagnostic assessments for all residents within the first 30 days of placement, develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include the child and her authorized representative, provide all residents age five and older the opportunity to choose their clothes, and provide all residents with the opportunity to maintain a photo album/life book.

Site 3

Site 3 needs to maintain recreational equipment, and provide all residents with the opportunity to maintain a photo album/life book.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact DeWitt Roberts at (626) 293-1101.

JTM:BG:CC

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer
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**Dangerfield Group Home
Site 1
1433 West 81st Street
Los Angeles, CA 90047
(323) 290-5056
License No.: 191800563
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Dangerfield Group Home Site 1 (Dangerfield 1) is a large home located on a quiet residential street. The home was well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blended well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards noted.

Overall, the interior of the home was neat and clean. The décor provided a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms were nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms were spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire, with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

There were books, and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs available for the residents. There was a TV, VCR, board games, and the children had personal toys. However, the recreational equipment was deficient, as there were no balls, weight-lifting equipment, bikes, basketball hoop or baseball mitts.

There was a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food was accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendation

- 1. Dangerfield Group Home Site 1 management provide residents with a variety of recreational equipment and play activities.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents met Dangerfield 1's population criteria as outlined in their program statement. The residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into Dangerfield 1's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. The child and his placement worker were routinely given the opportunity to participate in the development and update of the NSPs.

The quarterly reports were current and comprehensive, and they appropriately focused on the goals of the NSPs.

The residents were provided with psychological testing, emotional and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Both residents were receiving individual and group therapy sessions.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

One resident was enrolled in and attended regular classes at a local school. The other resident had recently been expelled from school and the facility had documented their efforts to re-enroll him in school. The residents had a current Individualized Education Plan.

Records contained current semester report cards and/or progress reports for the residents. Residents reported that they were provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and that the group home was supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes teaching residents' daily living skills. Residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals, discuss personal hygiene as needed, and employment preparation is encouraged.

Residents were offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

The residents were not employed.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Dangerfield 1 provided its residents with sufficient opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety and the quantity of activities provided by Dangerfield 1, and stated that the recreation schedules were followed and implemented.

Dangerfield 1 utilized local community organizations for recreation and program resources. Both residents reported that they had the opportunity to participate in planning some of the activities. The residents reported that they had free time and were able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation was provided to and from the scheduled activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were five residents placed in Dangerfield 1 at the time of the review. A review of two case files was conducted for the two residents prescribed psychotropic medication.

Comments:

The residents who were prescribed psychotropic medication had current court authorizations. Documentation confirmed that the children were routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs were properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents expressed satisfaction with the facility and Dangerfield 1 staff. They stated that the atmosphere was generally good. Residents participated in an initial orientation, and Dangerfield's policies and procedures were posted in the facility. The residents reported that they felt safe in the home and that there was no interference with daily living functions. The residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there was sufficient staff supervision and they expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff. Both residents felt there was at least one staff member that they could easily talk to and trust.

The residents reported that they had assigned chores to complete on a daily basis and that the chores were not too demanding. The residents were able to have visitors and to use the telephone to make personal telephone calls. Residents were permitted to contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Both were able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and they felt that staff were respectful of their cultural lifestyles.

The residents reported that the discipline policies were consistently enforced and there were fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The residents were aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Dangerfield 1 provided residents with appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances. Dangerfield 1 supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of \$50, and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents was of good quality and of sufficient quantity. Dangerfield 1 provided its residents with the required weekly allowance, which the residents were able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. The residents were permitted to spend their allowances as they pleased.

Dangerfield 1 provided residents with adequate personal care items and storage for their items.

The residents were provided with an opportunity to maintain a photo album/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

**Dangerfield Group Home
Site 2
4736 11th Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90043
(323) 290-5054
License No.: 191801451
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Dangerfield Group Home Site 2 (Dangerfield 2) is a large home located on a quiet residential street. This home was well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blended well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards noted.

Overall, the interior of the home was neat and clean. The décor provided a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms were nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms were spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire, with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

There was age-appropriate play equipment including board games, TV, VCR, a swing set, basketball backboard, and the children had personal toys. There was a computer with a variety of programs, books, and resource material.

There was a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food was accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents met Dangerfield 2 population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. One resident received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into Dangerfield's program, but the other resident did not.

For one resident, the Needs and Services Plan (NSP) was current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. The resident and their authorized representative participated in the development and update of the NSP. The other resident did not have a current NSP.

There was a quarterly report for the applicable resident. It was current, comprehensive, and appropriately focused on the goals of the NSP. The other resident had not been in the facility long enough to require a quarterly report.

The residents were being provided with emotional and developmental counseling as required by their Program Statement. Both residents were receiving individual and group therapy sessions.

Recommendations**1. Dangerfield Group Home Site 2 management:**

- a. **Provide each resident with a complete initial diagnostic assessment within 30 days of being admitted into the program.**
- b. **Provide each resident with an updated Needs and Services Plan (NSP) every six months; review and appropriately implement the NSPs.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

One resident attended regular classes at a local school. The other resident attended special education classes at a local school. Dangerfield 2's files contained current report cards and/or progress reports for both residents. Residents reported that they were provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and they felt that the group home was supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency provides daily living skills training to residents. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation of meals and receive instruction on hygiene care and

employment preparation.

Age-appropriate residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

The residents were not employed.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Dangerfield 2 provided its residents with sufficient opportunities to participate in both on-ground and off-ground recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety and the quantity of activities provided by Dangerfield 2 and stated that the recreation schedules were followed and implemented.

Dangerfield 2 utilized local community organizations for recreation and program resources. Both residents reported that they had the opportunity to participate in planning some of the activities. The residents reported that they had free time and were able to participate in self-selected activities.

The Agency provides residents with transportation to and from recreational activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were six residents placed in Dangerfield 2 at the time of the review. A review of two case files was conducted for the two residents' prescribed psychotropic medication.

Comments:

We observed current court authorization for the prescribed psychotropic medication and documentation confirming the children were routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs were properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents expressed satisfaction with the facility and Dangerfield 2 staff; they stated that the atmosphere was generally good. Residents participated in an initial orientation and Dangerfield's policies and procedures were posted in the facility. The residents reported that they felt safe in the home and that there was no interference with daily living functions. The residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They also expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and that they received sufficient supervision. Both residents felt there was at least one staff member that they could easily talk to and trust.

The residents reported they had assigned chores to complete on a daily basis and stated that the chores were reasonable and not too demanding. The residents were able to have visitors and could make and receive personal telephone calls. They were permitted to contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Both were able to attend weekly religious services of their choice. The residents stated that Dangerfield 2 was respectful of their cultural lifestyles and allowed them to celebrate different holidays.

The residents reported that the discipline policies were consistently enforced and there were fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The residents were aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Dangerfield 2 provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Dangerfield 2 supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents was of good quality and of sufficient quantity. Dangerfield 2 provided its residents with the required weekly allowance, which they were able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. The residents were permitted to spend their allowances as they pleased.

Dangerfield 2 provided residents with adequate personal care items and secure storage space for all their personal items.

The residents were not provided with an opportunity to maintain a photo album/life books.

Recommendation

- 2. Dangerfield Group Home Site 2 management provide residents with the opportunity to maintain a photo album/life book.**

**Dangerfield Group Home
Site 3
4915 11th Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90043
(323) 290-5058
License No.: 198203748
Rate Classification Level: 11**

I. Facility and Environment

(Facility Based - No Sample)

Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Dangerfield Group Home Site 3 (Dangerfield 3) is a large home located on a quiet residential street. This home was well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blended well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards noted.

Overall, the interior of the home was neat and clean. The décor provided a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms were nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms were spacious, comfortable, and personalized (i.e., posters, pictures, and knick-knacks) to each child's desire.

There was a computer with a variety of programs, books, and resource material. There was age-appropriate recreational items, which included board games, a TV, a VCR, and arts and crafts. However, the on-ground outdoor recreational equipment was insufficient. The Agency staff reported that they were in the process of obtaining appropriate outdoor recreational equipment.

There was a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food was accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendation

- 1. Dangerfield Group Home Site 3 management to obtain on-ground outdoor recreational equipment.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents met Dangerfield 3 population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. The residents received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into Dangerfield's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSP) for both residents were current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. The NSPs for the residents were being reviewed and appropriately implemented. The residents and their authorized representatives were included in the development and update of the NSPs.

There were quarterly status reports for the residents that were interviewed and the reports were current, comprehensive, timely, and focused on the goals of the NSPs.

The residents were being provided with emotional and developmental counseling as required by their Program Statement. Both residents were receiving individual and group therapy sessions.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

One resident attended regular classes at a local school. The other resident attended special education classes at a local school. Records contained current report cards and/or progress reports for both residents. Residents reported that they were provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and they felt that the group home was supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency provides training to residents on daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation of meals and receive instructions on hygiene care, and employment preparation.

Age-appropriate residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

The residents were not employed.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Dangerfield 3 provided its residents with sufficient opportunities to participate in both on-ground and off-ground recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the variety and the quantity of activities provided by Dangerfield 3 and stated that the recreation schedules were followed and implemented.

Dangerfield 3 utilized local community organizations for recreation and program resources. Both residents reported that they had the opportunity to participate in planning some of the activities. The residents reported that they had free time and were able to participate in self-selected activities.

The Agency provides the residents with transportation to and from the recreational activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

There were six residents placed in the Dangerfield Site 3 at the time of the review. A review of two case files revealed that there were no residents prescribed psychotropic medication.

Comments:

According to the group home management, there were no residents on psychotropic medication at the time of the review. This was appropriately documented.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

The residents expressed satisfaction with the facility and Dangerfield 3 staff; they stated that the atmosphere was generally good. Residents participated in an initial orientation, and Dangerfield's policies and procedures were posted in the facility. The residents reported that they felt safe in the home, and that there was no interference with daily living functions. The residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food, and with their ability to participate in menu development. They also expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and that they received sufficient supervision. Both residents felt there was at least one staff member that they could easily talk to and trust.

The residents reported they had assigned chores to complete on a daily basis, they stated that the chores were reasonable and not too demanding. The residents were able to have visitors, and to make and receive personal telephone calls. They were permitted to contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Both were able to attend weekly religious services of their choice. The residents stated that Dangerfield 3 was respectful of their cultural lifestyles and allowed them to celebrate different holidays.

The residents reported that the discipline policies were consistently enforced, and there were fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The residents were aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews

Sample size for resident interviews: Two

Comments:

Dangerfield 3 provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Dangerfield 3 supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing

allowance in the amount of \$50, and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents was of good quality and of sufficient quantity. Dangerfield 3 provided its residents with the required weekly allowance, which they were able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. The residents were permitted to spend their allowances as they pleased.

Dangerfield 3 provided residents with adequate personal care items and secure storage space for all their personal items.

The residents were not provided with an opportunity to maintain a photo album/life books.

Recommendation

1. **Dangerfield Group Home Site 3 management provide residents with the opportunity to maintain a photo album/life book.**